

# How to pray the mission rosary



This resource is designed to help children understand the special nature of a rosary, its use as an aid for prayer, and to introduce the Mission Rosary as a means by which we can pray for and with children around the world.

## Useful facts

- The tradition of the rosary goes back to the 3rd century when monks used prayer ropes to help them to pray.
- When saying the rosary we reflect on the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous mysteries of Jesus' life.
- Lots of world religions encourage their followers to use beads as an aid to reflection and prayer. The images here show prayer beads from (clockwise top left) Catholic Christian, Islamic, Hindu and Buddhist traditions.



## Introduction

Show the children a **regular rosary** and ask them if they know what it is called and what it is used for.

Elicit that the rosary is used to help us pray and think about events in Jesus' life. For example, on some of the beads we remember Jesus' birth, on some his Baptism and the cross in the centre helps us to remember that Jesus loved us so much he died for us all, then rose from the dead three days later.

Explain that you are about to show the children a very special rosary; a **Mission Rosary**. Ask the children to identify how it is different from the regular rosary and encourage them to recognise the different colours.

Tell the children that this colourful rosary is called the **Mission Rosary** and that it is made of all these colours for a particular reason. Explain that when we pray the **Mission Rosary** we are using it to help us pray for all the children around the world because each colour represents a different continent: green for Africa, red for the Americas, blue for Oceania, yellow for Asia, white for Europe.

Bring out a globe, world map or Mission Together Prayer Poster and invite the children to explore it by indicating some of the continents and countries within them.



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Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission.

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## The Prayers – when we use the rosary we will be saying these prayers:

**The Our Father:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. AMEN

**The Hail Mary:** Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. AMEN

**The Glory be:** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN



## Using the Rosary

1. Hold the Crucifix and make **the Sign of the Cross:** + In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN.
2. (Optional) Recite the **Children's Creed:** I believe that God is my father in heaven. I believe that He made the world. I believe that He gives me life. I believe that He helps me grow. I believe that Jesus is the Son of God and the Son of Mary. Jesus shows me that God is love. Jesus lived and died for me. Jesus is alive now, alive in me and in my neighbour. I believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps me love others, who helps me know God better. I believe in God's family the Church. I believe that God forgives me when I get things wrong. I believe that I will live happily with God forever and ever. Amen.
3. Hold the first bead (green) and say the **Our Father**.
4. On each of the next three beads (red, white, blue) say one **Hail Mary**.
5. On the next bead (yellow) say the **Glory Be**.
6. You can now start the first decade of the rosary (green) for the children of Africa. Remain on the yellow bead and say the **Our Father** followed by ten **Hail Marys** on the ten green beads. Finish the decade with a **Glory be** on the last green bead.
7. Start the second decade (red) for the children of the Americas. Still on the green bead, say the **Our Father**, followed by ten **Hail Marys** on the ten red beads. Finish the decade with a **Glory be** on the last red bead.
- 8 Start the Third Mystery, for the children of Europe. Still on the red bead say the **Our Father** followed by ten **Hail Marys** on the white beads.
9. Continue in the same way for the children of Oceania and Asia, ending with the last **Glory be** on the yellow bead.



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